Balanced Reader Program (BallyR)

The 2019-2020 BallyR program is an independent reading initiative whereby students read a required number of books and words. It also encourages students to read a variety of literary genres. The BallyR reading log will keep students on track in reaching their goal.

**Why** offer an independent reading program?

- Georgia Standards of Excellence in Reading make clear a belief that students who read well independently throughout grades K-12 will be ready to succeed in college and careers. The standards specify an expected complexity level for students in each grade. *However, students with special learning needs will receive accommodations for achieving success at their level.*

- Reading practice outside of school is vital to success inside of school and beyond. We cannot emphasize this enough. Reading practice, and more practice, at increasingly challenging levels, leads to enjoyment AND academic success. To become a good athlete or musician, one practices. To become a great athlete or musician, one practices a lot and masters skills that are more difficult. Same with reading and academic success!

- Selecting nonfiction and biography as well as fiction helps students to discover interests and to appreciate the world, widen perspective, and increase knowledge.

- "One way we show children that we love them is by looking after them as readers. Only when we invite them to find books that delight them it is likely that they will come to cherish literature and their own literacy." (Atwell, 2007)

- Celebrating reading achievement makes our school culture stronger and happier. We celebrate by awarding and displaying READ posters.

---

**Georgia Standards of Excellence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fifth Grade Reading Literary (RL)</th>
<th>Fifth Grade Reading Informational (RI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELAGSE5RL10:</strong> By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</td>
<td><strong>ELAGSE5RI10:</strong> By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Do Fifth Graders Earn a BallyR READ Poster?

1. Write your current independent reading level at the top of your WHITE BallyR reading log.

2. Read books and pass AR quiz (score of 80 or above). Books can come from home, the Greer library, the public library, etc. Make sure your book choice has an AR quiz by visiting AR Bookfind.com.
   AR quizzes can only be taken at school between 7:30 – 2:30 and are limited to two quizzes per day. Taking a quiz with an open book is not allowed. Logs are due the first Monday of each month.

3. To earn poster #1 (18 x 24):
   - Read at least 25 books and
   - Pass the AR quiz, earning 80% or above and maintain an overall AR average of 80% or above and
   - Meet or exceed reading 200,000 words.
   For poster #2 (24 x 30) and bookmarks, start with a new reading log and follow the rules above; but the word count must exceed the count for poster #1. Example: If you read 205,000 words on your first log then you’ll need to meet or exceed reading 205,000 words on your second log. Only AR quizzes taken AFTER turning in your previous reading log will be counted.

4. The 25 books include:
   A. One (1) Caldecott Award or Honor Winner (search Caldecott in Destiny)
   B. One (1) Newbery Award or Honor Winner (search Newbery in Destiny)
   C. Seven (7) fiction chapter books
   D. Four (4) biographies
   E. Five (5) nonfiction books
   F. Seven (7) free choice genre

What others have to say about reading:

- "To learn to read is to light a fire” — Victor Hugo, Les Miserables
- "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!” — Dr. Seuss
- "Books train your mind to think big.” — Taylor Swift
- "If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books.” — Roald Dahl
- "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” — Joseph Addison
- "The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest (people) of the past centuries.” — Descartes

What can you say about reading?

“__________________________________________” --- by _______________________